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TWO MEN INDICTED FOR ROLE IN IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME

SAVANNAH, GA: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that on March 10, 2006, a federal grand jury sitting in Savannah returned a fifteen-count indictment charging **Alonzo Eric Cleaves** of Savannah and **Kevin Maurice Martin** of Culver City, California with multiple federal felony offenses arising from an identity theft scheme.

The indictment charges both Cleaves and Martin with conspiring to possess false identification documents, commit bank fraud, mail fraud and wire fraud. Cleaves was also charged with five counts of uttering counterfeit business checks, two counts of bank fraud, two counts of possession of false identification documents, two counts of aggravated identity theft and one count of using a false social security number. Martin was also charged with one count of possession of more than five false identification documents and one count of credit card fraud. According to the indictment, Cleaves and Martin illegally obtained confidential financial and identification information from customers of Bank of America. Cleaves and Martin then

obtained false identification documents in the names of these Bank of America customers and conducted various fraudulent financial transactions.

If convicted, the defendants face statutory maximum penalties ranging from five years to thirty years imprisonment, fines of up to \$250,000.00 and up to five years of supervised release, along with a \$100.00 special assessment per count.

Ms. Wood stressed that an indictment is only an accusation, and it is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the Government's burden to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by agents from the Savannah office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Savannah office of the United States Secret Service and detectives from the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. The United States is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Robert M. Brennan.

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